

# METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR A GRAPHICAL REAL TIME FLOW TASK SCHEDULER

## Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A system and method of creating and using a graphical task scheduler. A  
Graphical User Interface (GUI) allows a user to graphically build a real time flow task  
scheduler by providing a "click & drag" functional palette which contains graphical  
flow chart elements. By creating this graphical flow chart, the user is able to associate  
a plant layout, or any subpart of the entire plant, to its associated mathematical model.  
10 With a graphical flow chart, the user can define one or more exit branches for each  
task. For tasks with more than one exit branch, the user can specify the conditions  
causing the sequence to use each branch. Once the flow chart is set up, it can be used  
as a sequence editor or scheduler. The sequence editor defines the sequence of tasks  
that will be performed by an on-line application, such as optimization, and also allows  
15 scheduling of the on-line application at specific times or periodic intervals. The  
scheduler controls the running of each sequence based on the scheduling information.  
Once a plant has been optimized by the graphical task scheduler, the optimized data  
may be used to control plant operations.

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